

The American Veteran
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Seamless Transition

THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES MANY SERVICES TO VETERANS.
THE TRANSITION FROM THE MILITARY BACK TO CIVILIAN LIFE,
THE FIRST STEP CAN BE TOUGH.

THE VA IS THERE FOR TROOPS EVEN BEFORE THEIR SERVICE
ENDS, OFFERING SUCH THINGS AS CLASSES ON HOW TO FIND
JOBS AND WORKSHOPS ON THE BENEFITS THEY'VE EARNED.
JOHN LIEBERMAN SHOWS US HOW EFFECTIVE THESE SEAMLESS
TRANSITION PROGRAMS ARE.

>> BEING IN THE MILITARY 20 YEARS YOU LEARN A LOT OF
THINGS, BUT YOU DON'T REALLY LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT THE
OUTSIDE WORLD.

YOU'RE SHELTERED.

>> THE MOST AWKWARD FEELING YOU CAN HAVE IS THE FACT
THAT OKAY, I'M GOING TO NO LONGER HAVE A REGULAR
STANDARD DAY-TO-DAY ROUTINE AND THINGS ARE GOING TO
CHANGE.

>> IN A WORD, IT'S UNCERTAINTY.

>> FOR MANY OF THE TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS, THE
MILITARY HAS BEEN THEIR ONLY JOB.

FOR OTHERS, IT'S THE ONLY LIFE THEY'VE LIVED FOR YEARS.
AND THAT POSES A BIG CHALLENGE.

JUST ASK MASTER SERGEANT LEROY EVANS, III.

>> I'VE BEEN CULTIVATED AND GROOMED FOR THE NEXT HIGHER
GRADE IN THE MILITARY, BUT NEVER TO TRANSITION BACK TO
THE CIVILIAN WORLD.

>> Reporter: JUST BACK FROM IRAQ AND NOW READY TO RETIRE AFTER 20 YEARS IN PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS, EVANS FINDS HIMSELF GOING FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO THE CLASSROOM.

>> THE FIRST PARAGRAPH IS WHY AM I WRITING TO YOU?

>> Reporter: THIS IS THE ARMY CAREER AND ALUMNI PROGRAM AT FORT BRAGG IN NORTH CAROLINA.

IT'S A CLASS TO HELP TROOPS LEAVING THE MILITARY LEARN HOW TO PUT TOGETHER RESUMES AND FIND JOBS.

IT'S ONE OF A NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS RUN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE PENTAGON.

HAVING THIS EASES MY MIND, PREPARES ME FOR THE FUTURE.

>> FIRST REQUIREMENT IS WE NEED A LEGIBLE COPY OF EVERY PAGE INSIDE YOUR SERVICE MEDICAL RECORD.

>> Reporter: HE LECTURES THE GROUP LIKE A COLLEGE PROFESSOR.

A VETERAN HIMSELF, HE NOW WORKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RUNNING CLASSES LIKE THESE TO INFORM SOLDIERS ABOUT ALL OF THE BENEFITS THEY MAY HAVE EARNED.

BY A SHOW OF HANDS, HOW MANY OF YOU ARE ALREADY MAKING A COPY OF YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS?

>> Reporter: FROM DISABILITY BENEFIT TO MEDICAL AND DENTAL COVERAGE TO INFORMATION ABOUT THE GI BILL, GLOVER TOUCHES ALL OF THE BASES.

IT'S PART OF AN UNPRECEDENTED OUTREACH PROGRAM THAT IS BETTER ENSURING SERVICE MEMBERS A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE AND SMOOTH ACCESS TO BENEFITS THEY'VE EARNED.

VA CALLS THIS SEAMLESS TRANSITION.

>> NOTHING IS GIVEN TO THEM UNLESS THEY APPLY.

SO YOU HAVE TO KNOW ABOUT THEM SO THAT YOU CAN APPLY.

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS.

THAT WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

>>Reporter: THEY DON'T JUST TAKE PLACE IN THE CLASSROOM.

HERE AT FORT BRAGG AND AT OTHER BASES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

THE VA OFFERS MANY PERSONALIZED HELP AS WELL.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANTHONY IS ONE OF HUNDREDS OF

SOLDIERS WHO COME TO THE VA OFFICE FOR ONE ON ONE

ATTENTION TO MAKE THE TRANSITION EASIER.

>> ARE YOU CLAIMING ANYTHING?

>> WHEN YOU COME IN HERE, WE KIND OF GET A LITTLE BIT

PERSONAL BECAUSE WE TRY TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING THAT

YOU'RE ENTITLED TO BASED ON WHAT YOU'RE ENTITLED TO, NOT

A GROUP OF PEOPLE AND WHAT THEY'RE ENTITLED TO.

>> Reporter: EVERYONE LEAVING THE MILITARY IS ELIGIBLE

FOR PERSONAL AND FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES TO HELP THEM

ADAPT TO THEIR NEW LIVES.

THESE SEAMLESS TRANSITION PROGRAMS ARE QUICKLY

DEVELOPING A SUCCESSFUL REPUTATION.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER KNOWS THE COCKPIT OF THIS ARMY

C-12 AS IF IT WERE HIS OWN.

>> COLOR RADAR WEATHER, GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM,

MULTIPLE RADIOS.

>> Reporter: HE'S BEEN IN THE MILITARY FOR 26 YEARS AND

FLOWN THIS TYPE OF AIRCRAFT FOR MUCH OF THAT TIME.

NOW HE'S RETIRING.

>> SINCE I FINISHED THE PROGRAM I'VE HAD THREE
INTERVIEWS.

I THINK THE PROGRAM HAS A LOT OF POTENTIAL FOR ANYBODY
TO UTILIZE IT PROPERLY AND THEY WILL GIVE YOU THE STUFF
YOU NEED TO GET INTO THE CIVILIAN WORLD

>>Reporter: FOR THIS CAREER MILITARY MAN WHO NOW HAS TWO
JOB OFFERS IT HAS PROVED TO BE A TRULY SEAMLESS
TRANSITION.

>> IF YOU'RE NEARING SEPARATION OR RETIREMENT, CHECK IN
WITH THE VA.

GO TO VA.GOV FOR MORE INFORMATION.

End of Transcript.